

I am supportive of the proposal to establish one entity to track and analyze information concerning fatalities of children involved our child welfare system. For years, a number of sources have gathered data and reported on child deaths in our system. Unfortunately, the attempt to analyze this information - some of which is dated, inconclusive or conflicting - has caused more confusion than viable solutions. Protecting the safety of children in our care is the highest priority of this Board. Only the most reliable historic information available to us should influence policy decisions in this area. That is why I think that the previous attempt by the Board to gain historic perspective on this issue, by ordering a review of records and information on child fatalities dating back to 1990 - is well intended but misguided. I believe that we should focus our efforts on this point forward. There are clear patterns emerging in recent critical incidents that should be more than sufficient in informing our ability to protect children and prevent tragedies from occurring.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the motion be amended to direct the Chief Executive Officer to report back in 30 days with a recommended plan for a single County entity to be responsible for consistently tracking, compiling and interpreting Los Angeles County child death data - instead of adding to the variety of conflicting data already available by compiling Los Angeles County child death statistics from 1990 to 2010 - in consultation with the Department of Children and Family Services and County Counsel.

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MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

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KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

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